Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland either the tenancy does not exist or whether it is prevalent their rights are protected.

(c) Land being a State subject the Central has only an advisory and coordinative role. In pursues of its policy of land to the tikker, Government of India advised all the State to confer ownership rights to the cultivators.

[*English*]

Price of edible oil

3526. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister had a meeting at Ahmedabad regarding curbing the price of edible oil;

(b) whether the representatives of NDDB were also invited for the meeting;

(c) whether there is any proposal for distribution of edible oil through private business houses in place of fair price shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHEMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The policy of the Government is to distribute the imported edible oils in PDS through Fair Price Shops and Cooperative Outlets.

[*Translation*]

Traditional and small scale industries

3527. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional and small scale industries are likely to be in peril due to the invasion by foreign compa;nies; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to save the traditional and small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Under the amended KVIC Act, a village industry is defined as that located in a rural area, village or town with a population upto 10,000 and upto a per capita investment of Rs. 15,000 on plant and machinery. There is therefore no scope for foreign companies making inroads into this sector.

The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 provides protection to the small scale sector industries against encroachment by large and medium unite in respect of 836 items which have been reserved for exclusive production in the small scale sector. This reservation has been continued in the new policy also announced on July 24, 1991. The industries reserved for the small scale sector have been kept as reserved.

Government is not granting any approval to any medium or large undertaking. including those with foreign equity to manufacture items reserved for the small scale sector for Domestic Tariff Area.